

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-44. Claims 18-22 and 40-44 are allowed. Claims 4, 8 and 26-31 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5, 9, 23 and 32 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-11 and 31-33 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but were deemed to recite patentable subject matter. Applicant has therefore amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 8 and of claim 4, from which claim 8 formerly depended. Applicant has likewise amended independent claim 23 to incorporate the limitations of claim 31 and of claims 26 and 27, from which claim 31 formerly depended. Claims 1 and 23 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 5, 9 and 32 have been amended to depend from these independent claims.

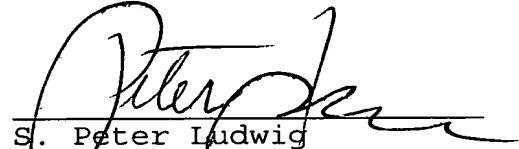
Claims 1-7, 12-17, 23-30 and 34-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Witkowski et al. (US 2002/0197955) in view of Youngs et al. (US 6,600,918). Claims 1 and 23 have been amended, as noted above, in order to distinguish the present invention over the cited art. Claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 9-17 depend from claim 1, while claims 24, 25 and 32-39 depend from claim 23. In view of the patentability of amended claims 1 and 23, these dependent claims are believed to be patentable, as well.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner.

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In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Peter Ludwig", is written over a horizontal line.

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